

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 February 2005 (10.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/012178 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C01F 11/22, (74) Agent: STEVENS, Ian; Eric Potter Clarkson, Park View
11/32, C01D 3/18, 3/02, C01B 9/08 House, 58 The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DD (GB).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2004/003115

(22) International Filing Date: 19 July 2004 (19.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 0316760.8 18 July 2003 (18.07.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INEOS FLUOR HOLDINGS LIMITED [GB/GB]; P.O. Box 13, The Heath, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QF (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BROWN, Samantha, Jayne [GB/GB]; 47 Gordale Close, Winnington, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4XT (GB). CORR, Stuart [GB/GB]; 31 Foxhills Close, Appleton, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 5DH (GB). LOW, Robert, Elliott [GB/GB]; "Longmeadow", Ffordd y Pentre, Nercwys, Flintshire CH7 4EL (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/012178 A1

(54) Title: REDUCTION OF THE CONCENTRATION OF UNDESIRED COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract: A process for treating a composition comprising one or more undesired compounds and one or more desired compounds so as to reduce the concentration of the one or more undesired compounds is described. The process comprises the steps of: (1) contacting the composition with an extraction solvent comprising a (hydro)fluorocarbon, and (2) separating the solvent from the one or more desired compounds; wherein one or more of the desired compounds is an inorganic material provided that water is not the only desired material. The process is particularly suited to reducing the content of sulfur and/or nitrogen containing compounds in inorganic fluorides.